

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
CARIBOU-TARGHEE NATIONAL FOREST
WESTSIDE RANGER DISTRICT**

**OCCUPANCY AND USE
DISCHARGING FIREARMS, MINK CREEK**

PROHIBITIONS:

Pursuant to Title 36 CFR 261.50 (a) and (b) the following act is prohibited on the areas and open roads, as described in this order, all within the Westside Ranger District, Caribou-Targhee National Forest until further notice.

1. Discharging of a firearm, air gun, or gas gun. **36 CFR 261.58(m).**

EXEMPTIONS:

Pursuant to 36 CFR 261.50 (e) the following persons are exempt from this order:

1. Persons hunting big game and upland birds during designated open hunts, with a valid hunting license and tag/stamp for the open hunt.
2. Any Federal, State, or local law enforcement officer, in the performance of his official duty.

AREA DISCRIBED:

150 yards on either side of the Mink Creek Highway, East Fork of Mink Creek Road, Camp Taylor Loop Road, Kenney Creek road, South Fork of Mink Creek Road, Box Canyon Road, Crystal Creek Road, and the first two miles of the Upper Scout Mountain Road.

150 yards around the perimeter of the Pocatello Field Archers' shooting range, all trailheads, and any dispersed or undeveloped camping areas within the Mink Creek, East Fork of Mink Creek, South Fork of Mink Creek, Box Canyon, Gibson Jack, City Creek, and Trail Creek drainages all within the Caribou-Targhee National Forest.

Legal description is National Forest lands within T. 7 S., R. 34 E.; T. 8 S., R. 34-36 E.; T. 9 S., R. 34-36 E.;

The above-described area is within the proclaimed and administrative boundary of the Westside Ranger District, Caribou-Targhee National Forest, in Bannock County.

PURPOSE:

Reduction of vandalism to property and natural resources, and provide for safety to the public in this highly used recreation area.

IMPLEMENTATION:

1. This Order will be in effect when signed and shall remain in effect until further notice.
2. A map identifying the closure area is attached and made part of this Order.
3. Any violation of this prohibition is punishable by a fine of not more than \$5,000.00 for individuals, and \$10,000.00 for organizations and/or imprisonment for not more than six (6) months. [Title 16 USC 551, Title 18 USC 3571(b)(6), Title 18 USC 3581 (b)(7)].
4. This order supersedes any previous orders prohibiting the same acts covered by this Order

Signed at Idaho Falls, Idaho this 27th day of January, 2010.



BRENT L. LARSON
Forest Supervisor
Caribou-Targhee National Forest

Order Number: 04-15-116

Needs and Assessments and Enforcement Plan

Background

There is a need for a Special Closure to stop the discharge of firearms, air, and gas guns within 150 yards of all open roads, trailheads, camping sites, dwellings, and structures in the East Fork of Mink Creek, Mink Creek, South Fork of Mink Creek, Box Canyon, Gibson Jack, Trail Creek, and City Creek areas. Reduction of vandalism to property and natural resources and public safety are the expected outcome. The intent is not to stop the use of firearms by those with valid hunting license and tags/stamps during designated open hunts.

There is 24-hour heavy recreational use in the form of hiking, camping, picnicking, sightseeing, bird watching, and trail riding occurring in Mink Creek, East Fork of Mink Creek, South Fork of Mink Creek, Box Canyon, Lead Draw, Gibson Jack, City Creek, Cusick Creek, Trail Creek, and Crystal Creek areas. All of these areas are within minutes of Pocatello and have easy access via paved roads.

Due to the closure of private, city and county property in Trail Creek and other areas around the greater Pocatello area, paint gun popularity, and restrictions on the use of the Two and One-Half Mile Shooting Range, there has been a significant increase in the discharge and use of firearms, air guns, and gas guns on National Forest lands within the above-mentioned areas. Cherry Springs, Lead Draw, the State section camping area, and the pine plantation area have been significantly impacted. Trees, fence posts, guardrails, signs, and information boards have been cut in half by bullets. Paint from paint guns has defaced many facilities. Targets, backdrops, clay pigeons, shells, campfires, and pallets with nails are left in all these areas. Armor piercing bullets are often used at these sites.

The Westside Ranger District has received numerous written and verbal complaints of hazardous shooting situations such as shooting near by or toward other persons, bullets whizzing by forest users, and bullets hitting the ground near people.

If only the current heavy use areas are closed now, the discharge of firearms, air, and gas guns will immediately move to the next closest location.

Enforcement

Forest Protection Officers, Law Enforcement Officers and Forest Service employees will emphasize education during the first year of the new regulation. Warning Notices will be issued, and Incident Reports will be completed by Forest Protection Officers and Law Enforcement Officers. Notice of Violations should be issued on second offense of the violation.

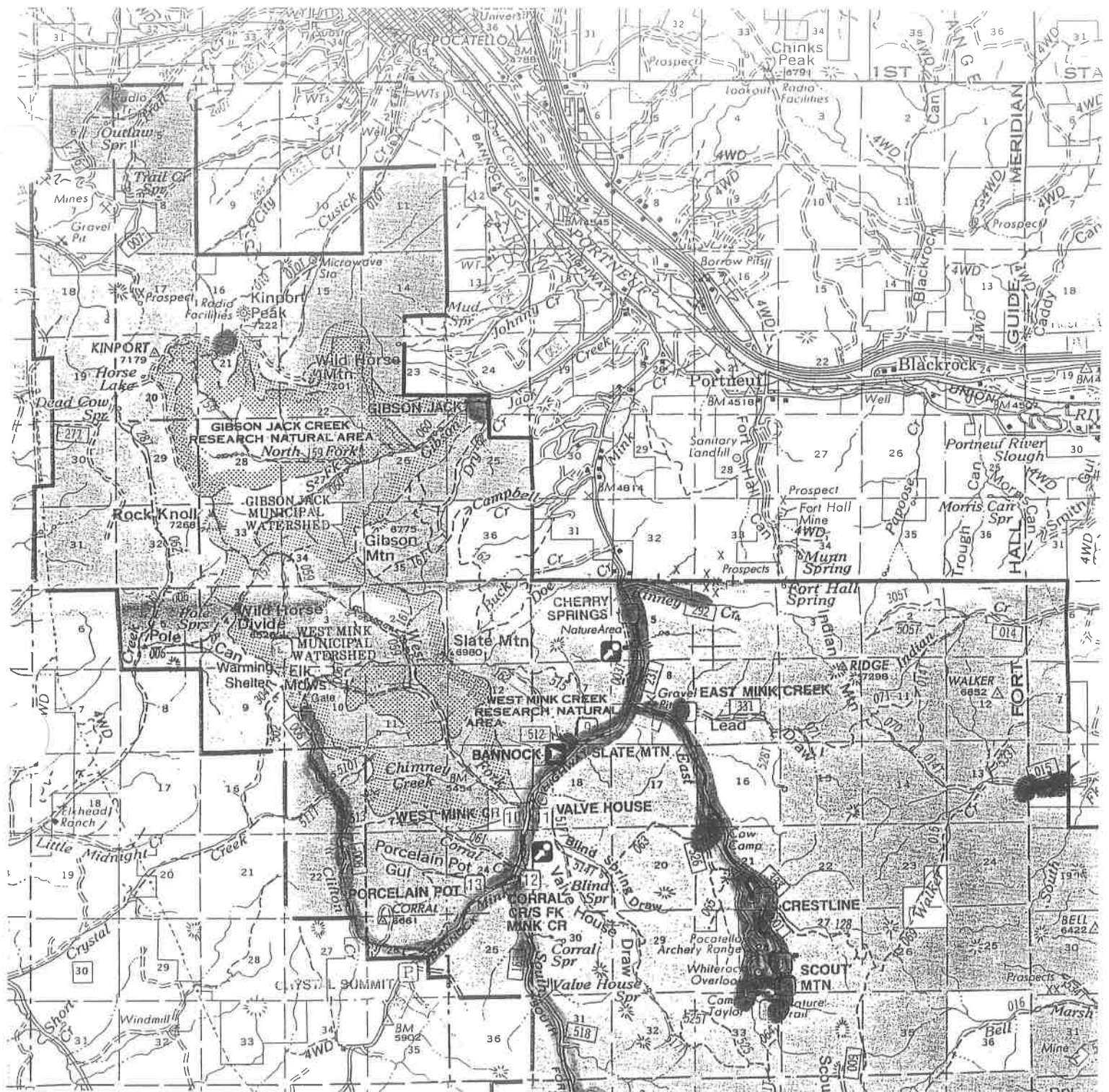
Press releases, Caribou-Targhee National Forest web page and front offices will highlight the new regulations. All public notification will include an explanation of the safety and resource benefits of the Order.

Large information signs will be posted at Forest entrance portals (upper and lower ends of the Bannock highway), both ends of the South Fork of Mink Creek road, and entrance to Crystal Creek road. After two years, when the forest users have gained general knowledge of the closure, the interior Forest signs will be removed, but the Forest portal signs will remain. Smaller signs (8 ½" X 11" replaceable signs) will be posted at all trailheads; Cherry Springs; developed campground information boards; and dispersed campsites, within the closure area.

<u><i>Action</i></u>	<u><i>Responsibility</i></u>	<u><i>Date</i></u>
Prepare proposed order	Responsible Staff	05/05/2005
Review proposed order	LE Patrol Captain	05/23/2005
Review proposed order	Regional LEI	05/25/2005
Review proposed order	OGC	05/25/2005
Approve proposed order	Forest Supervisor	06/14/2005
Post order in accordance with 36 CFR 261.51	District Staff Officer and staff	06/15/2005
Prepare news release for local media describing the order and management objectives	District Ranger PAO Zone PC/LEO	06/15/2005
Describe implementation/action taken for order, such as planned patrols, enforcement strategies, tolerances, contacts to local public agencies.	Appropriate Staff LEO/field going personnel	06/15/2005
Enforcement Plan approved for implementation:		06/15/2005
Implement plan.		06/25/2005





JERRY B. REESE
Forest Supervisor
Caribou-Targhee National Forest

Date



Mink Creek Shooting Closure Project
 Westside Ranger District
 Caribou-Targhee National Forest
 Order Number 04-15-0052

Map Legend

-  Forest Boundary
-  Closure areas
-  Roads
-  Trails